NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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Volume XIX...... No. 29,

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery-Undle Tom's Camp. BROADWAY THEATRE Breadway Two BUZZARDS

BURTON'S THEATRE. Chambers street—A'Widsummer Right's Dieam—A Preuty - fece of Buriners. NATIONAL THEATRE, Cratham street -Afternoon LITTLE KATY Evening Upple Ton's ARIV. WAI LACK'S THEATRE Broadway Love in a Maze Love and a Uniber-How to make Rome Harry.

AMERICAN MUSEUM - afternoon - Rose or Ettrics BROAD WAY MENAGERIX-SIAMESE TWINS AND WILD

CHRISTY'S AMERICAN OPERA HOUSE AT Broad

WOOD'S MINSTRELS-Wood's Minstrel Hall 366 Broad-BUCKLEY'S OPERA FOURS, 532 Broadway-Book-

BANVARD'S GEORAMA, 596 Broadway-PANCHAMA

RHENISH GALLERY, 563 Broadway - Day and Evening SIGNOR BLITZ-STUVYESANT INSTITUTE, 653 Broad-

ACADEMY HALL, 5'S Broadway Franch's CIPT Ex-HOFE CHAPEL 715 Broadway - Jones' PANTOSCOPE.

BRYAN GALLERY OF CHRISTIAN ART-843 Broad

New York, Thursday, February 9, 1854.

The intense expitement prevailing among the British people at the date of the sailing of the Arabia, concerning the antiripated action of th Czar with regard to the movements of the allied fleets in the Black Sea, causes the arrival of the steamship Pacific, now in her fifteenth day from Liverpool, to be looked for with great eagerness Her news will most probably decide the question whether Europe is to be convulsed with a general war or not. The steamer belonging to the San Juan line is also about due, with the details of two weeks' California intelligence. These vessels may have been off the coast vesterday, but were unable to come in owing to the violent storm raging in most parts of the country. While large quantities of snow were falling at the north and east, rain was pouring down in torrents in this vicinity. Before the close of the week we may expect to hear of many maritime disasters in consequence of the un propitious weather : indeed, we have already learned that the schooner Liberty, of Cape May, was wreck sels succeeded in reaching our port during the day.

The antouncement that the Hon. Edward Everett was to deliver a speech in opposition to the Nebraska Kansas bill, gave rise to the most extraordinary exestement in the political and fashionable circles at Washington yesterday. Everybody was anxious to hear the d'stinguished orator, and at an early hour the galleties of the Senate were completely jammed with ladies and geptlemen, all desirous of obtaining seats and securing good places for hearing. Regardless of what might be the wishes of the inhab Mants of other parts of the country to ascertain what was going foward through the medium of the press the gentler sex are said to have unscrupulously ousted the reporters from their chairs, much to their inconvenience. The gallantry of Gen. Housto prompted him to move that the ladies, of whom there were several hundred at the doors, be admitted to the lobby; but to this Mesers. Weller and Pratt ob jected, the former for the reason that their presence would disturb the quiet of debate and render it im possible to hear what was going on. Mr. Pratt based his opposition on the ground that he, the other day, saw old and venerable men standing while women were scated. But, despite all the noise and confusion in the chamber, by way of commence ment, and the heavy rain storm which materially interfered with telegraphic operations throughout the day, we are this morning fortunately enabled to give a graphic and comprehensive sketch of the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts. Mr. E. being one of the prominent candidates for the next Presidency, his speech will be perused with the greatest attention by all classes.

A large number of nominations and various Indias treaties were transmitted to the Senate, and many or the former were confirmed. Among them we notice the names of Mr. Borland, Minister to Central America, and Mr. Belmont, Charge to the Hagne, There seems to be a screw loose in the case of M: Eames, Chares to Venezuela, but it is thought he will ultimately be endorsed.

In the early part of the day the Senate passe bills granting large quantities of land to aid in the construction of railroads in Michigan and Louisiana. The French Spoliation bill was taken up, read through, and an amendment adopted, providing for an atterney to attend the Board or Commissioners.

Several remonstrances against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise act were again sent into Congress yesterday. Mr. Brodhead presented no less than seven in the Senate, one of which was from the Society of Friends in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware; and in the House, Mr. Cutting stated, singular as it may appear, he had been selected to present the memorial signed by the officers of the anti-Nebraska meeting lately held at the Tabernacle in this city. Objection being made to the document, Mr. C. presented it under the regular rule, after which the House went into committee on the Defisiency Appropriation bill. A sharp debate ensued on the subject of appointing military officers to superintend the work at the armories, at the close of which an amendment was adopted appropriating nearly six thousand dollars for the compensation of the commission of civilians and army officers ap pointed to investigate matters connected with the armories, with the proviso that the officers shall not receive a higher salary than their regular pay would entitle them to. Several other amendments of no special importance were made, and then the bill was reported to the Honse, wherenpon the body adjourned, and most of the members rushed to the Senate chamber to hear the speech of Mr. Everett.

Our correspondent writes that the Gadsden treaty will most likely be sent to the Benate to-day, and without any recommensations for alteration. Gen Pierce is reported to have acquireced in this policy in consequence of a majority of the members of hi Cabinet-Massrs. Cushing, Davis, Dobbin and Marcy

-baving favored the project. The temperance project makes but slow headway in the Legislature. A short debate took place i the Senate yesterday, on a motion, which failed, t refer the bill to a select committee to report con plete. The Assembly has rather taken the wind out of the sails of the Senate on the Nebraska affair. The former passed a copy of Mr. Dickinson's reso. lutions, and upon their reception in the Senate quite a brisk discussion arose upon the silver gray sul stitute proposed by Mr. Putnam, which was even tually thrown overboard; but without disposing of the matter the body adjourned. In the course of the day a number of bills, some of them of importance to the inhabitants of this city and Brooklyn, were

acted on in both houses. Our intelligence from Albany to day is lengthy and important. We publish the report made to the State Senate on Tuesday by the majority of the jeint committee appointed by the two houses to

investigate the encroachments upon the harbor in this city. It is understood that a change will pro-bably be made in the commissioners from those named in the bill. It is in contemplation to retain Gen. Totten and Judge Bronson, and to add Prof. Bache, Superintennent of the Coast Survey; and John C. and Joshua A. Spencer. We are informed that Mr. Hutchins, of Kings county, intends to submit a minority report, thus making the subject. in reality, an issue between us and our sister city.

The Agricultural and Pouttry Exhibition is said to have attracted a large number of strangers to Albany, all anxious to inspect the remarkable bipeds and quadropeds now congregated at the capital. The display of poultry has never been equalled in the State, and us for the swine, cattle and grain, they are highly creditable. According to the treasu rer's report, the receipts of the State Agricultural Society last year amounted to \$12,684 77, and the expenditures to \$11,882 09. By our report it will be seen that it has been decided to hold the coming fair in this city.

Heavy damages for personal injuries are becoming quite frequent. The administrators of Mr. Mc-Clockey, who was killed by a collision on the Pennsylvania Railroad last March, have obtained a verdiel of \$4 500 sgainst the company in one of the Pi'tsburg courts, and at New Orleans & Mr. Gould has recovered £10,000 damages against the firm of Gardiner, Loger & Co. for false imprisonment.

Major General Scott presided yesterday at the Military Court of Inquiry now in session at the headmarters of the Army, in West Eleventh street. The Court has now been sitting for three days, and probably will continue for two weeks longer. The testi mony of Lientenant Fremont, one of the passengers on board the ill fated San Francisco, occupied the whole of vesterday.

To-day's inside pages contain a number of very nteresting letters from Paris, Havana, and Erie; account of the visit of the members of the Massa chusetts Legislature to this city; communication concerning the Cuban Junta and charitable contributions; and a great variety of local, indicial, com mercial, and miscellaneous intelligence, to which the attention of the reader is directed without comment.

The Nebraska Question-Southern and Northern Slavery-The Constitution.

The National Era at Washington, the cen tral organ of all the anti-slavery factions of the country, says that "the New York HERALD consistent upon no other subject of policy or principle, has ever been faithful to the interests of slavery." Upon this allegation we have word or two to say.

The abolition organ at Washington rests the whole merits of the slavery question upon the fundamental abolition dogma that the hereditary system of Southern labor is an evil-a mo ral, social, and political evil-and that it should therefore be extinguished as soon as possible This was the dogma of Gen. Pierce in 1846, when, before a popular convention in New Hampshire, he declared his opinion that the slave-holding system of the South was a mora and social evil. But is it an evil? and if it be what do we gain by the discovery? Is not the hireling system of our Northern labor an evil? Is not labor itself an evil, inflicted as a curse upon mankind with the expulsion from "Para disc lost?" Are not cold, hunger, and naked ness, destitution, disease, and crime, great moral and social evils under any government, and in every clime? They are evils inseparable from the imperfections of human nature-they began with the beginning of human history, and will continue to the end.

But, admitting Southern slavery to be an evil, we doubt whether it leads to more deplorable consequences than our hireling system of free labor, which in truth may be called the white slavery system of the North, in contradistinction to the black system of the South. Let us judge of these two systems by their fruits. 'By their fruits shall ye know them" We have been looking into that prolligious

book of the census, as put together by Mr. De Bow, for the statistics of pauperism and crime in the United States, with a view of instituting a comparison upon these returns between the Northern and Southern sections of the Union. But in this voluminous mass of badly digested materials which Mr. De Bow has thrown upon the government, we find nothing at all of the returns of crime and pauperism. On turning, however, to the statistics of Mr. Kennedy as published in the HERALD, of December 7: 1852, we find that the number of paupers in the six New England States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Is'and, Vermont and Connecticut who in 1850 were subject to charitable support, was 33.431, while, for the same year, the same class of persons in the six Southern States of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. numbered only 15,500. Of these, the native paupers of the New England States numbered in round numbers 19,000, while those of the six Sonthern States amounted to but 12 000.

BECAPIECL ATION.

Nativ Population. Paupers. 19,000 Six New England States.... 2,705,896 Six Southern States 5,219,776

That is to say, the six New England States boasting the highest elements of Northern perfection, in free schools, free labor, free speech and free men, have an average of more than three to one of native born paupers as compared with Mr. Kennedy's official returns of that class in the six Southern States of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. We select the native paupers because the foreign are an extraneous element, affording no basis for a just comparison. And the same advantage will appear to the South in the comparative returns of the idiotic, the deaf and dumb, the blind and the insane.

Why is this? What are the causes of these differences in these melancholy returns of wretchedness in favor of the South. They may he readily explained. The population of the South is mainly agricultural-that of the New England States is chiefly occupied in manufac tures. The black slaves of the South, and the poorest of the whites, have generally enough to ent, and air enough for health and wholesome ventilation. The hired laborers of the North are to a great extent crowded into close and unwholesome factories; and on leaving their work they return to still more crowded and un wholesome cellars and garrets, in towns and cities, reeking with unwholesome vapors. The plain but substantial fare, and the wholesome cabins of the negro quarters of a Southern to bacco or cotton plantation, are, in truth, more favorable to health and longevity than the houses of many of our Northern working men in towns and cities, comparatively well-to do in the world.

With these vital statistics before us, we hav only to say to all anti-slavery moralists who consider the slaveholding system of the South a social and moral evil, look at home. Beginning with General Pierce, and his speech at New Beston, and going down to the abolition organ at Washington, we call the attention of all the anti-slavery moralists to the relative results of the involuntary black servitude of the South, and the voluntary white servitude consequences the other is also; and the evils of poverty and crime are augmented in proportion to the increase of the supply of labor above the demand. Hence, to a very considerable extent, the excess of crime and destitution in the North over the same evils in the South. Labor, as a necessity for subsistence, in any shape, is an evil; but where men and women willing to labor perish for lack of employment, they suffer from the worst of moral and social evils

These reflections have been suggested by the anti-slavery excitement which has been raised against the bill of Judge Douglas, on the ground that a repeal of the Missouri compromise is a recognition of the great moral and social evil, so called, of Southern slavery. But with this sort of philosophy Congress has nothing to do. Nor bave the people of the North or the South. respectively, any business to intermeddle in the social institutions of each other. The coastitution has recognized the institution of Southern slavery, the equality of the States and the sovereignty of the people. The powers not vested in Congress are reserved to the States and the people. No power is vested in Congress over slavery in the States or the territories. It remains with the people.

If it is urged that by the repeal of the Missouri line, the Louisiana territory above 36-30 falls back to the pre existing state of slavery there, we have only to say, that with the annexation of that country, or any other country, to this Union, the local law, wherever it conflicts with the federal constitution, is superseded by it The Missouri Compromise, the result of sec tional fanaticism and Presidential stock-jobbing was an interpolation upon the constitution, a violation of its spirit and meaning, and should therefore be repealed, with all other compro mises destructive of the perfect equality of the States and the absolute sovereignty of the peo ple over their social institutions, whether in the States or in the territories.

Not only Kanzas and Nebraska, Utah and New Mexico, but the territories of Washington. Oregon and Minnesota, are, under the constitu tion, open to the people of all the States, with or without their slaves, until the people of each territory for themselves shall settle the question one way or the other. The repeal of the Missonri Compromise involves the repeal of the Wilmot Proviso, which is the same thing, and removes all obstructions to all sorts of emigration to all the territories of the Union. It makes a clean sweep of all sectional compacts, dictated by trading aspirants for the Presidency, and reposes the issue of slavery or antislavery in all the territories, as in all the States, directly in the sovereignty of the people.

We discard, therefore, all moralizing upon Southern slavery as a social and moral evil. It is outside of the question. We must stick to the compact of the Union, the equality of the States, and the sovereignty of the popular will. Let the Nebraska bill be passed, and let us have this issue of slavery or free soil in all the territories of the Union be put to rest at once and forever.

The Coming Struggle in Europe.

The present position of the European powers, as it has been defined by the force of recent events, is of so singular and unprecedented a character that it furnishes subject for grave and anxious reflection. That the existing combinations are those into which the antagonistic interests that have arrayed the principal monarchies in Europe in two hostile camps, are finally to settle down, does not seem probable to any one who has studied history or who has watched with an attentive eye the political occurrences of the last twelve months. They do not, in fact possess those elements of attraction and cohesion which are necessary to impart to them stability, and they may therefore be regarded as only the first of a series of short lived alliances, which, like the shiftings of the kaleidoscope, will present us with a succession of sartling changes.

There are, however, two great principles at the bottom of the mass of complicated interests and prejudices that at present sway the agiated mind of Europe. questions must eventually be absorbed, Although the conflict of opinions has commenced. as it were, upon neutral ground, we still can trace their influence actively at work throughout all the complicated phases of the Eastern difficulty. In this struggle between the oppressor and the oppressed are involved not only the political equilibrium of Europe, but those great questions which have so long divided the opinions and feelings of mankind. Although Mahommedanism may be considered opposed to the spirit of modern civilization and progress, we nevertheless find the liberals of Europe true to their generous lustinets and those eternal principles of truth and justice that constitute their creed, arrayed to a man upon the side of the weaker party. The contest in which Europe is about to embark, is, in fact, nothing less than a struggle between popular government and absolutism; and in its results are involved the happiness or misery of a large portion of the human race.

In speculating upon the laste of the approaching contest, it is necessary to form a correct estimate of the strength engaged in it. On one s'de we have Russia, powerful in the nuity and simplicity of its political system, the vastness of its internal resources, and the unassailable character of its territories; on the other, we have England and France, with their governments and people, acting in apparently cordial union, and for the first time for several centuries, appearing as allies in a European war. Whatever traditional or personal causes of enmity may exist against the English on the part of France and its ruler, they seem to have been entirely lost sight of in the importance of the principles at stake in the present crisis. These two nations are the representatives of the popular or parliamentary principle in Europe and they have been drawn together by the bonds of their political sympathies and interests. That their union is sincere there cannot be a doubt, for not withstanding all that is said to the contrary, the ancient prejudices that formerly embittered them against each other have been of late years fast disappearing, the extension of their commercial relations and increased facilities of intercourse having opened the way to better feelings. What the ulterior objects of the French Emperor may be, it is, from the character of the man, impossible to divine; his ambition may blind him to his true interests; but judging from the prudence and good sense which he has displayed throughout the whole of this Eastern difficulty, there is scarcely a doubt that he will adhere to a line of policy which has so much enhanced his popularity.

The position of the German powers in the

of the North. If the one is productive of evil | by this war of principles, is perplexing and embarrassing in the extreme. Their dynastic interests and partialities, as we have already had occasion to show, incline them towards the Court of Russia, whilst the opinions and feelings of their subjects (the aristocratic classes excepted) are naturally enlisted on the democratic side. Between their dread of the power of the Czar on the one hand, and the dangers of a revolution fomented and encouraged by the maritime powers on the other, the German sovereigns are placed between two formidable alternatives, which paralyze their action and leave them no other option than to abide the contingencies of war. Pressed, in the meantime, by the solicitations and menaces of the adverse powers, they are either compelled to make a show of lukewarm co-operation or of ostensible neutrality. It is easy to foresee. however, that the first decisive successes gained by the Czar will put an end to this hesitation and give rise to fresh combinations. In that case England and France will be left to bear the entire brunt of the war.

> On the eventual issue of the struggle it is of course impossible to calculate; that it will be a long and a terrible one there is but too much reason to fear. Were its character to be determined by the maritime resources of the respec. tive powers, there would be no question as to the result; but unhappily it is on the land, and not on the sea, that the fate of the contest must be decided. The annihilation of the entire Russian fleet would not advance by an hour the settlement of the difficulty. Whether the maritime powers will be able to bring into the field a force sufficient to neutralize the immense resources of the Czar, or whether their union will stand the test of the reverses to which they may be exposed in a hostile and almost impreg nable territory, are questions that time only can solve. The conditions of military success have besides been so much altered by the introduction of the electric telegraph and railroads, and by numberless scientific improvements in the machinery of destruction, that it is difficult to speculate with anything like certainty on the eventualities of a war carried on with the aid of these new and untried auxiliaries.

Socialism in the United States-Its History

Progress and Present Condition, Something like twenty-five years ago, Robert Owen and his son, Robert Dale Owen, with Fanny Wright, a female lecturer and the antetype of the strong-minded women of the present day, came to this country from England, bringing with them the doctrine of English so cialism. This doctrine was based upon the destruction of the rights of individual property and of the institution of marriage, and taught that the true condition of society was a community of property and promiscuous intercourse of the sexes. Fanny Wright made a tour of the country, delivering lectures proclaiming these doctrines wherever she could, and Robert Dale Owen established papers, called the Free Enquirer, and the Sentinel, in which the same ideas were advocated by himself, and several other writers of the same school, with great boldness and no little ability. They never disguised the full extent of their theory, but struck straight out at the institutions of society, sneered at religion, and ridiculed unmercifully the belief in an over-ruling Providence.

The career of these reformers was short The people of the United States searcely honored them or their lunatic absurdities with a single regard. Owen, the father, returned in disgust to England; Fanny Wright took a husband. and gave up lecturing; Robert Dale Owen went to Indiana, where he turned politician, started an ultra democratic paper, and was finally elected to Congress, and was recently appointed by General Pierce American Minister to Naples. Thus the small ripple of socialism in America subsided, and the broad stream of our country's life went on.

Some years later, however,-about twelve years ago-another emigration of socialism to the United States took place. But this time it came from France and Germany, piloted hither by some Americans who had become disciples of the school. The new form of the doctrine was called Fourierism, or Association; and, tak ing warning by the fate of their English predecessors, its apostles now assumed a mask of religion and morality-appealed to the Christian feeling, especially of New England, by pretending great zeal for temperance, antislavery, and other moral reforms, and carefully conformed to the outward observances of religion. Communities, entitled phalanxes, were commenced in several parts of the country, and a newspaper. (the Tribune.) just then about being established by a disciple of Four ierism, was made the public and avowed organ of the new dectrines, and a certain portion o its editorial department was daily set apart for

their elucidation. This was done, however, very cautiously and adroitly. All the most repulsive and revolting features of these doctrines-such as the abolition of marriage, the establishment of promiscuous intercourse, the denial of a God, and the destruction of the rights of property-were carefully kept out of view, both in the Tribune, and by the other advocates of Fourierism. The Tribune kept continually harping on the wrongs of labor, the oppression of the poor, and holding out the most dazzling prospects to the laboring classes under the sys tem of Fourierism-at the same time advocat ing, with exaggerated zeal, the cause of tem perance, abolitionism, and other movements appealing to the religious prejudices of the community. In this way, while being really devo ted to the promulgation of a doctrine which struck at the foundation of Christianity, denied Christ, and laughed at every requisition o morality, it extended its patronage and influence among clergymen and the religious portion of the community, who could not disown an un. tiring champion of their favorite reforms, and either could not or would not see the real character of Fourierism, which was the Tri bune's own especial doctrine.

The other advocates of Fourierism, however were not all of them so discreet as the Tri bune, and the true character of the doctrine began to leak out. One after another the phalanxes broke up, either from starvation or the gross immorality of the membersand the leading disciples and advocates of the new creed returned to New York, where they were quartered upon the Tribune, in the character of assistant editors and contributors, the whole concern itself being cut up into shares and divided among them, something after the Fourieristic doctrine of distribution of

property. Of course, the united labors of such a gang of atheists and infidels could not be without consequences. All the discontented dreamers in the country, male and female, gathered around the Tribune; and to it may be traced all the

the stage-such as Woman's Rights, Spiritual

Rappings, &c., &c. Broken up and driven off in the country, Fourierism now turned its attention to the metropolis, in search of some suitable resting place for the sole of its foot, and after much disconsolate wandering at length it stumbled upon the Five Points. The free and easy code of morality pervading that region, was perfectly congenial to the doctrines of Fourierism, and admirably adapted to their growth and propagation. Of course the Tribune, as usual, came promptly forward and lent its aid to the establishment of the "institution" to which we have alluded, which, so far as we can discover, is carried on upon the genuine Fourieristic principle. As an additional stimulus to the new enterprise, and also as a spur to its own lagging and declining city circulation, the Tribune published the "Hot Corn" sketches, giving minute descriptions of life in fashionable houses of ill-fame, and entering into the details of seduction. licentiousness and debauchery, with a gusto ill concealed by the pretence of morality. We have already sufficiently characterized this publication, made up from the columns of the Tribune, although the extracts we gave are by no means so disgusting as many

its pages. But the most astounding part of this affair is, that this "Hot Corn" is unqualifiedly enderied in the editorial department of many o the religious papers of New York! The Independent says of this "Hot Corn" book-"Let it speed. May its numbers be as great as the leaves in summer! May thousands sit down under its shadow with delight!" The Evangelist esys that "sound Christian morality cannot but spprove" this book. The Christian Inquirer says these sketches "honor the author and the able and humane journal for which he writes.' The Protestant Churchman, and many other leading and influential religious journals, swell the chorus of praise of this ribald and libidinous trash; and the Evangelist, despite the atrocious style in which the book is written, and the absolute violations of English grammar which occur on almost every page, says that "it evinces a dramatic skill worthy of Dickens."

others which we refrained from making from

Now, what does all this mean? What is to be the destiny of Christianity in this country, when its teachers and accredited organs are willing, for so much a line, to lend themselves to circulate in thousands and hundreds of thousands, among the peaceful and virtuous families of their congregations and 'sects, a record of seduction, licentiousness, and debauchery-s book whose pages they would not for their right hands dare to publish in their own columns or utter from their pulpits? These fulsome puffs are evidently all from the same hand-most likely that of the author himself-and to the initiated contain unmistakeable evidences o having emanated directly from the publisher's desk. Their cry is taken up and re-echoed in the same strain by the Sunday press, with the usual abuse of the editor of the HERALD, which has become as necessary to that dainty tribe of literary barbarians as train oil and blubber to the repast of an Esquimaux.

Thus, a long-continued course of hypocrisy on the part of the Tribune and its infidel gang. and a little money from a publisher, are entangling a large portion of the religious community with a creed which ignores marriage and denie God, inducing the great body of the religious press to endorse an obscene publication, and carrying the seeds of a deadly moral poison into the bosom of every family wherein it is ad mitted.

More "Reform" Measures -THE CHIEF OF Police.-There is a great deal of public excitement in this city at present, relative to the proposed change in the method of choosing the Chief and Captains of Police. We alluded to the subject some time since, when the first attempt was made to bring about a measure which is an utter absurdity, both in a logical and practical point of view.

There always have been certain meddling third-rate pot-house politicians, who have strong penchant in favor of "special legislation" for what they call the "good of the city of New York." In the matter of the Chief of Police these men are now endeavoring to procure the passage of an act of the Assembly to legalize the election of the head of the department by popular vote. The Chief is now appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen, and the Captains of Police by three commissioners-the Mayor, the Recorder and the City Judge-and the officers are responsible to these commissioners.

The present system is an effective one; and when it shall become perfected by time and experience, it will be the best that we could have. Let us look for a moment at the other sidethe new régime that is proposed. The Chief and Captains are to be elected by the people A number of votes secured will insure the election of the persons who hold the offices at the time, no matter how corrupt, how venal, how unprincipled they may be. The Chief and the Captains work together for the same end -the policemen and the friends of the policemen vote for them. The men must have some reward for this devotion to their superiors. They get the reward in laxity of discipline and the obtuseness of the Chief and Captains when citizens complain o neglect or insult. The Chief and Captains are independent-there is no power to control them except that of the people, and the people cannot control them until their terms of office have ex pired. It follows that under the present system of primary elections, the rascals who would do the acts above specified would certainly feel no reluctance in interfering with and controlling. by bribery, by threats, by corruption, or by any ether villanous means, the votes of a sufficient number of electors to secure to them a majority. There is scarcely any person able to read who is not aware of the power which an unscrupulous politician holding the office of Chief of Po lice, with a thousand organized men at his command, may exert in a city like New York. Life and property are in his hands-the very exist ence of citizens depends upon his prudence, sagacity, honesty and fidelity. We ought not to throw so much temptation in the way of any one man, however good he may be. There should be some power over him; and by the pre sent system, there is an excellent supervising board.

The above we believe to be a fair statemen of the question. The first inquiry that natural. ly suggests itself, is why should there be any change? So far as the present system has been tested it has worked well-the system proposed is full of dangers, and at any rate must overburden the people with elections, which are s complicated now that a youthful elector knows difficult conjuncture in which they are placed is ms which have strutted their brief hour upon and this extra burden will result in no cor-

responding benefit. It is very certain that the people are not in favor of it, as the following remonstrance has been extensively subscribed to, and among its signers we find the names of the presidents of all the banks and all the insurance offices. These gentlemen have a direct interest in the preservation of property, and as they have studied well the subject, they would have been very willing to try the new system had they not perceived at once how utterly ridiculous and absurd are the premises upon which it is founded. The remonstrance is addressed to the members of the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York in Assembly convened, and runs thus :-

The undersigned citizens, without regard to po The undersigned citizens, without regard to political distinction, beg leave to remonstrate against the passage of any act of the Lngislature of this Seate which shall change the mode of appointing the Chief or the Captains of the Police of the city of New York, which, by an act of the Legislature passed at its last session, was vested in three Commits ioners, viz: the Mayor, the Recorder, and the City Indian.

into ioners, viz: the Mayor, the Recorder, and the City Judge.

We see no reason whatever why the appointments should be taken away from those three high, respectble and responsible magistrates, and placed in the hands of irresponsible political, electioneering committees, which would, we fear, turn the whole police department into a political body.

The great desire of the citizens is to separate the appointment of the beads of the police department entirely from the influence, bargaining and corruptions of party organization; to keep in office good men when they are vigilant and faithful in the performance of their dates, and to dismiss them for their neglect or violation. Such object is gained by yesting the appointment in magistrates who are responsible to the public for the men whom they apin sible to the public for the men whom they ap-int and keep in office; but if the Chief or other point and keep in office; but it are officers were elective, they would be beyond control of any supervising power during their of effice.

We beg leave to represent the vast importance of a versionsible police in our city. The preservation

We begleave to re-resent the vast importance of a responsible police in our city. The preservation of life and property, and freedom from insult and injury, depend upon it. We fear that if the heads of the police were mere politicians, the depar-ment would reglec their duties for party organiza-tions, and that from a political body we could not expect the same impartisitive and energy in the dis-charge of their duties as if they owed their appoint-ment to no political friends and had no fear of poli-tical focs.

ment to no political friends and had no fear of poli-tical fees.

We therefore respectfully request that your hono-rable body will let the appointment of the chief and other officers of the police remain in the hands of the three responsible magistrates, where the act of your last session placed it.

Now, in the above remonstrance the reasons against the so-called reform in the Police De. partment are ably, pertinently and briefly set forth. It is to be hoped that the Legislature will allow the dictates of common sense to triumph for once, at least, over the machinations and seductions of truckling. gambling, lobby politicians. The country has given us too much of special legislation for New York city. The suburban members should remember that acts which may be beneficial for interior villages, are not at all suitable to a great commercial city like New York. We have a large foreign population, including many German socialists, French red republicans and Irish patriots. We are aware that the masses of the foreign population are peaceable and orderly citizens; but the revolutions of 1848 brought to our shores many "revolutionists by profession"-people who are never happy unless engaged in a row of some kind. With these discordant elements in her midst, New York city needs an active, efficient, well-governed, responsible police, headed by a responsible chief, his superiors being responsible commissioners.

For these reasons we trust that the Assembly will throw out the proposed bill. Were we not aware that public virtue has become a very rare article in our Legislature as well as in others, we should entertain no doubts as to the fate of the proposed measure. But the restlessness of some youthful legislators and the rascality of some of their seniors, frequently coalesces and brings about the most unexpected and disastrous ends. Therefore we trust that the sensible citizens of New York will leave no stone unturned to defeat the measure above alluded to. As its friends are vigilant, earnest, intriguing, so must its enemies be firm, watchful, and decisive. Organize! Organize!

THE STREETS .- The Commissioner of Streets, Mr. Arcularius, has communicated to the Board of Councilmen the contractors' unwillingness to fulfil their bargains in relation to the streets. Whereupon the Board communicates to Mr. Arularius their unwillingness to let the contrac tors off. And all parties are now ready for a good quarrel. Meanwhile the state of our streets is unparalleled in the history of the city. Slime, melting snow, mud and water, from six inches to a foot deep cover every part of Broadway and the adjoining streets. Such is the first fruits of our reform Council! Such the net result of the glorious triumph of the reform cause!

DECIMAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, AND AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD —We referred some weeks since to the important movement new in progress in England, under the clever management of Mr. William Brown, of Liverpool, seconded by some of the ablest statesmen of the country, for the establisament of a decimal coinage, and quoted the admirable report of the special committee of the House of Commons unanimously recommending its adop-tion. This movement, involving of itself many and great advantages to all classes in society, is but preparatory to a thorough reform in the national system of weights and measurer, a subject which is attracting notice throughout Europe, and is beginning to engage the attention of practical minds in the United States.

Mr. H ekson W. Field, of this city, well known for many years as a prominent member of the Chamber of Com merce, Historical Society, Lyceum of Natural History, and other k ndred institutions, and who is now residing in Paris, has taken a warm interest in the matter, and resently communicated to the Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, of which Mr. Bangroft is President, a pictorial of art showing the admirable and complets metrical system now in use throughout the French empire, and suggested the expediency of an early move ment for reform in our own system. The society has since considered the subject in all its breadth, and in accordance with the resommentation of a special committee, consisting of Mesers. Russell, Poor for a reform of our national system, but for an effort to secure the co-operation of other commercial nations is the adeption of international standards. This is proposed to be effected by an invitation emanating from our government for a congress of scientific delegates to meet at Brussels, for the interchange of views on the subject, and also in regard to a common meridian of longitude. The proposal meets the approval, we understand, of the scientific men and states men at Washington sho have been consulted in regard to it, and there seems good rea con for believing that the call would be cordially respond ed to by all friendly nations.

If the step is to be taken, the sooner it is done the beter. Great Britain has not yet commensed the revision of her weights and measures, and there will be, probably, little diffi tulty in England and the United States agreeing upon the same system, which would alone be of infinite convenience to the mercantile community of both conn-

On the Continent, the French system of weights and measures, with occasionally some modification, has been extended, chiefly as we are informed, by the eventy of M. Vattemere, to Holland, Sardiole, Modens, Greson, Belgium, Iombardy, Poland, Smitzerland, in part; Spain, Portugal, the Zoliverein, and some programs has been made towards it by Mexico, New Granada, Chile and

The Chamber of Commerce in this city, we hear, are likely to recond the movement of the Statistical Society, and the Casmbers of Commerce throughout the country might advantageously unite in asking Congress to are premptly in a matter of such general interest, and na-merely national, but world-wide benefit.